

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /082 W

-----006785 301132Z /10

R 300756Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4001

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3056

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RH, UNMCR, NO

SUBJECT RHODESIAN JOSHUA NKOMO IMPRESSES NORWEGIAN OFFICIALS

SUMMARY: RHODESIAN NATIONAL LEADER JOSHUA NKOMO VISITED OSLO LAST WEEK TO OUTLINE HIS VIEWS ON CURRENT POLITICAL ISSUES AND AID TO GON OFFICIALS AND PUBLIC. HE MADE A FAVORABLE IMPRESSION ON GON OFFICIALS WHO CAME AWAY FEELING THE RHODESIAN WAS ACTING MORE LIKE A NATIONAL LEADER THAN HEAD OF A LIBERATION GROUP. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING VISIT TO OSLO JUNE 22-23 RHODESIAN NATIONALIST LEADER JOSHUA NKOMO OUTLINED HIS VIEWS ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS IN WORKING SESSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND AND CONFERENCE WITH PRESS.

2. NKOMO TOLD GON OFFICIALS THAT UK FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN'S ATTEMPT TO BRING ABOUT NEGOTIATED SITUATION IN RHODESIA WAS HIGHLY UNREALISTIC AND WILL FAIL. HE SAID HE
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HAD URGED US OFFICIALS NOT TO SUPPORT UK INITIATIVE FOR THIS REASON AS WELL AS ON GROUND THAT IT WILL INVITE OTHER BIG POWERS TO MEDDLE IN THODESIAN AFFAIRS. NKOMO SIAD HE THOUGHT UK WAS STILL TOO OCCUPIED WITH PROTECTING ITS OWN RATHER THAN RHODESIA'S INTERESTS AND HE BELIEVES SMITH WILL NOT MAKE ANY CONCESSIONS WHICH COULD WEAKEN WHITE REGIME'S POSITION. NKOMO SIAD HE FOUND US POTTION ON RHODESIA "A

BIT CONFUSED."

3. ON THE RHODESIAN AID FUND, NKOMO SAID HE HAD NEVER BEEN CONSULTED AND HAD LITTLE TO SAY ABOUT IT, EXCEPT THAT HE COULD NOT GO ALONG WITH IT IN THE ABSENCE OF CONSULTATION. GON OFFICIALS OBSERVED THAT NKOMO WAS AT LEAST NOT NEGATIVE TO SUCH A FUND.

4. ASKED ABOUT SOVIET AID TO HIS MOVEMENT, NKOMO SAID LIBERATION GROUPS HAD TO TAKE AID WHERE THEY COULD GET IT. HE SAID THIS DID NOT MEAN THESE GROUPS WOULD BECOME COMMUNISTS AND HE DENIED THAT GUERRILA GROUPS TURNED COMMUNIST BECAUSE THEY WERE GETTING SOVIET WEAPONS.

5. ON INTERNAL RHODESIAN MATTERS, NKOMO TOLD NORWEGIANS THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE TO MEND RELATIONS WITH RHODESIAN LEADER MUGABE. HE SAID THAT AT A RECENT MEETING OF HIS AND MUGABE'S PEOPLE IN GENEVA PROBLEM AREAS WERE FOUND TO BE EASILY OVERCOME. BUT HE SAID THE RIFT BETWEEN NKOMO AND MUZEREWU COULD NOT BE BRIDGED FOR THEY INVOLVE SERIOUS DIFFERENCES OF PERSONALITY AND PHILOSOPHY.

6. ON AID NKOMO REQUESTED AND THE GON AGREED TO RECEIVE RHODESIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT ECONOMIC PLANNERS TO COME TO NORWAY NEXT YEAR. THE NORWEGIANS ALSO AGREED TO CONSIDER PROVIDING TECHNICAL TRAINING TO RHODESIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT TRAINEES, AND THEY INDICATED THEY PLANNED TO FUNNEL PROPORTIONALLY MORE AID IN FUTURE DIRECTLY TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS THAN TO
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UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES. NKOMO URGED NORWEGIANS TO CONSIDER PRIORITY AID TO REFUGEE CAMPS FOR RHODESIAN THROUGH THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.

7. COMMENT: GON OFFICIALS WERE IMPRESSED BY NKOMO, IN PARTICULAR BECAUSE OF HIS BUSINESS-LIKE AND FUTURE ORIENTED APPROACH TO RHODESIA'S PROBLEMS. IN CONTRAST TO THEIR LAST MEETING WITH HIM IN GENEVA A YEAR AGO, THEY FELT NKOMO HAD MOVED AWAY FROM IMMEDIATE TECHNICAL ISSUES FOR OBTAINING INDEPENDENCE TO THE LONGER-TERM NEEDS FOR RUNNING AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, RH, NO, UNHCR, (NKOMO, JOSHUA)
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